

A8 Fatal Stereotype

In the 19th century, stereotypes of Roma and Sinti became commonplace in newspapers, books and photographs. So-called "Gypsy" postcards became very popular in the first half of the 20th century. They reflected people's longings for a free way of life. Most people, who had never had any personal contact with Roma or Sinti, derived their ideas about them from illustrations like this.



1910

1951

1910-30

💡 Did you know

... that by the beginning of the 20th century more than 90 percent of the European Roma and Sinti were not living in caravans any more? The way of life of a very small group of Roma and Sinti became the stereotype for all members of this ethnic group.

✎ For you to do

Describe what you see on the postcard. What are the various people doing? What is not shown in the scene?

📷 The photo

Czech postcard from the early 20th century. Museum of Roma Culture, Brno, Czech Republic.



<https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/a>